

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/523,979
Reply to OA dated May 15, 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Fig. 8A and Fig. 8B as shown in the attached drawings.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Fig. 8A and Fig 8B as Prior Art as requested in the office action.

Applicant has also amended the claims to clarify the present invention.

As now amended, independent Claim 1 is to an electric wire that includes a conductive core and a coating which is made of synthetic resin and coats the core. The wire has a first marking formed by coloring a portion of an outer surface of the coating with a first color, which is different from that of the outer surface, and a second marking formed by coloring another portion of the outer surface of the coating with a second color which is different from both of the outer surface and the first color. The first marking and the second marking are arranged in a longitudinal direction of the coating, the first marking and said second marking are apart from each other, and the coloring agents are jetted by each drop in a liquid drop state toward the outer surface of the coating and adheres to the outer surface to form the first and second markings.

Independent Claim 4, as now amended, is to a wire harness that has a first electric wire connected to a connector at its end, and a second electric wire connected to another connector at its end and accommodated in an exterior component in the middle in the longitudinal direction thereof. The first electric wire and the second electric wire each include a conductive core, a coating which is made of synthetic resin that coats the core, a first marking formed by coloring a portion of an outer surface of the coating with a first color which is different from that of the outer surface, and a second marking formed by coloring another portion of the outer surface of the coating with a second color which is different from both the of the outer surface and the first color. The first marking and second

marking are spaced from each other and arranged in a longitudinal direction of the coating. The length of each of the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire in the longitudinal direction is shorter than that of each of those of the first electric wire in the longitudinal direction. Also, the interval between the first marking and the second marking of the second electric wire is shorter than that of the first electric wire, and the first marking and second marking of the second electric wire are exposed from the exterior component at the end of the second electric wire.

Such an electric wire and wire harness are not taught or suggested in the prior art cited.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Baker (U.S. 3,197,554), and Claim 4 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) in view of that reference. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claimed and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is stated that Baker shows a coated wire that has a first mark (10A) of one color on the surface of the wire (which can be white) and a second mark (10B) of another color, with the marks spaced (apart) from each other and arranged in a longitudinal direction of the wire coating. The coating can be white (col. 2, line 38), the marks are spaced apart (col. 2, line 48) and the marks are different colors from each other and the wire coating (col. 2, lines 42-47).

Applicants have amended Claim 1, however, to provide that the first and second markings are formed by coloring agents that are jetted by each drop in a liquid drop state toward the outer surface of the wire coating and adheres to the outer surface. Support for this language is clearly

found on pages 19, 20 and 21 of the present specification and is distinct from and unobvious over the teachings of Baker.

With respect to Claim 4, that Claim is rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the Baker patent. The Office Action refers to Baker as showing wires with spaced markings of different colors on the surface. It is admitted that Baker does not disclose markings on a second wire being shorter than those of a first wire and also that Baker does not show intervals between marks on a second wire being shorter than those between marks of a first wire, but it is alleged that such an arrangement would be obvious in view of Baker.

Baker does not discuss marks of different lengths. There is no teaching or suggestion in Baker of the use of one mark a different length than another on a wire, and certainly not on a second wire as compared to a first wire. There is also no teaching of the use of a different interval of spacing between marks on a second wire being a different that the interval between marks on a first wire.

Applicants do not believe that one would read Baker and arrive at the wire harness of Claim 4, where "the length of each of said first marking and said second marking of said second electric wire in the longitudinal direction is shorter than that of each of those of said first electric wire in the longitudinal direction, and the interval between said first marking and said second marking of said second electric wire is shorter than that of the said first electric wire, and the first marking and second marking of said second electric wire are exposed from said exterior component at the end of said second electric wire." as required in that claim.

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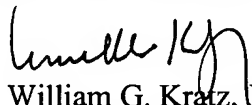
In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, Claims 1, 3, and 4, as amended are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Drawing (Figs. 8A & 8B)



8/8

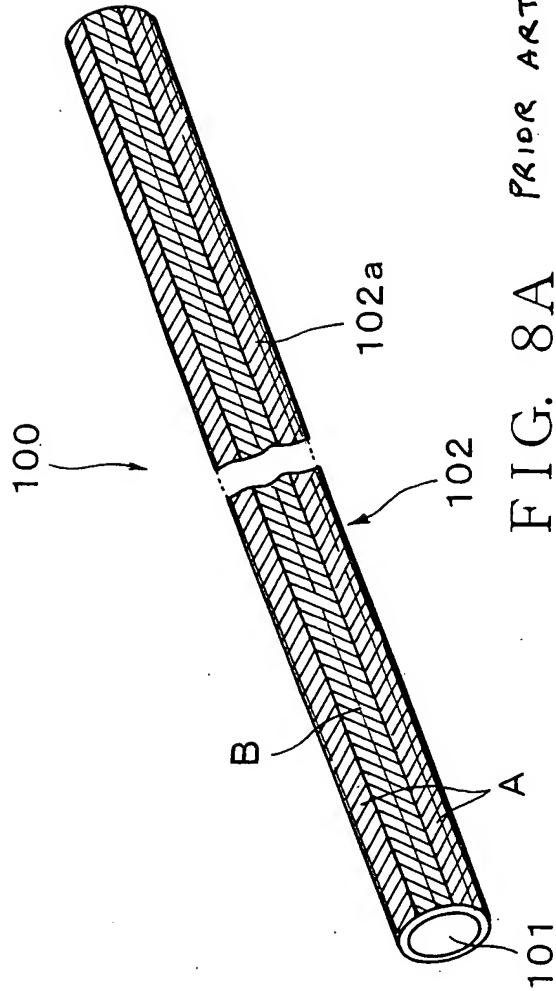


FIG. 8A PRIOR ART

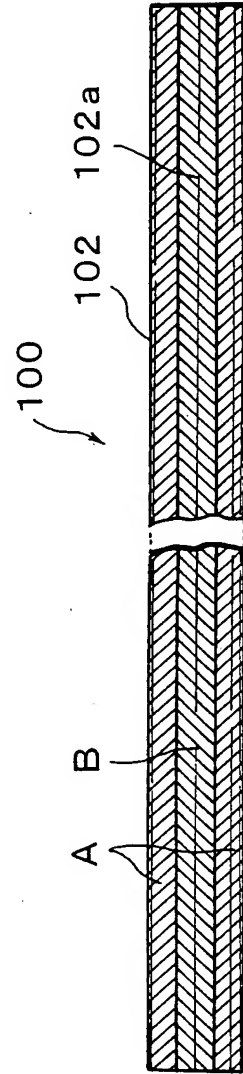


FIG. 8B PRIOR ART